



## Senate adopts assessment requirements resolution

(eCap) The Senate adopted a resolution on the State Department of Education's assessment requirements Thursday.

**HJR1028**, by Rep. Michael Rogers, R-Broken Arrow, and Sen. Gary Stanislawski, R-Tulsa, passed 34 to 8 without discussion or debate. The resolution approves in whole and without instructions the assessment requirements adopted by the State Board of Education and submitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate on Feb. 6, 2017.

Floor work is expected to increase as early as Monday. Thursday was the deadline for bills to be heard in a committee of their chamber of origin. That means floor work will be the major focus of members for the next three weeks. The deadline for bills to be heard on the floor of the chamber of origin is March 23.

The Senate will reconvene Monday at 1:30 p.m.

[\[LESS\]](#)

## Senate Energy Committee approves bills easing long lateral restrictions

(eCap) The Senate Energy Committee approved three bills Thursday that would ease restrictions on the use of long lateral lines, permitting their use in an geologic formation not simply shale operations.

Senate Majority Floor Leader Greg Treat, R-Oklahoma City, presented the committee substitute (CS) for SB0680. Lawmakers passed the Shale Reservoir Development Act in 2011 to allow the use of long lateral lines in shale formations. "Since then, the ability to move into other geological formations has developed," he said.

Two of those areas are the South Central Oklahoma Oil Province (SCOOP) and Sooner Trend Anadarko Basin Canadian and Kingfisher Counties (STACK) plays, where production has increased in recent years and is forecast to continue to increase, particularly if long lateral drilling methods are permitted in some areas.

Treat, responding to a question from Sen. Kay Floyd, D-Oklahoma City, said the Corporation Commission would regulate the new areas just as it does shale areas.

Chair Bryce Marlatt, R-Woodward, said one of the three bills advanced Thursday would become the vehicle for the new law once an agreement is reached.

The three bills that received do pass recommendations with their titles stricken Thursday were:

- CS for **SB0284**, by Sen. Mike Schulz, R-Altus, creates the Oklahoma Energy Jobs Act of 2017. It modifies certain definitions and defines new terms. It removes the limitation on the use of long lateral, also known as extended lateral, lines shale formations and permits their use in any targeted geologic formation.

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### Quote of the Day

*"I do not believe we've ever had a piece of legislation, certainly in recent history, delivered to the governor in four weeks."*

Senate President Pro Tempore Mike Schulz, R-Altus

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### Capitol News Now



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**eCapitol, LLC**

PO Box 3366

OKC, OK 73101-3366

405.524.2833

[publisher@ecapitol.net](mailto:publisher@ecapitol.net)

Darwin Maxey, Publisher  
Shawn Ashley, News Director

- **SB0669**, by Marlatt, adds the plan of development of any shale reservoir include the conditions under which the proposed unit will terminate.

- **SB0680**, as amended, by Treat, changes the name of the 2011 Shale Reservoir Development Act to the Extended Lateral Horizontal Well Development Act. It modifies the various definitions. The amendment corrected a grammatical error.

Also receiving do pass recommendations with their titles stricken Thursday were:

- **SB0285**, by Schulz, creates the Oklahoma Brine and Produced Water Development Act. The bill states its intent in relation to brine water disposal. It modifies definitions to terms used therein. It modifies the Corporation Commission's jurisdiction and expands promulgation authorization. The bill modifies actions of the commission in determining brine being produced as an incident to the production of oil and gas from oil or gas wells within a proposed brine development unit. It modifies the process by which brine units are developed by the Commission.

- CS for **SB0370**, by Sen. Mark Allen, R-Spiro, defines certain terms related to explosives. The bill establishes rules and procedures to be complied with in the use of explosives, with the exception of persons with a valid coal permit. The committee substitute defines additional terms related to explosive.

- **SB0492**, by Allen, requires the Department of Environmental Quality to seek and include any response submitted by any of Oklahoma's tribal governments when preparing any response on behalf of the state to the federal government on issues pertaining to air quality.

- **SB0498**, by Allen, modifies the duties of the executive director of the Department of Environmental Quality.

- **SB0593**, by Schulz, modifies the requirements for the notification of intent to build a wind energy facility. The bill specifies the terms of terms of notification and adds a requirement for an affidavit in certain situations

- **SB0731**, by Marlatt, requires when royalty proceeds are withheld incorrectly as a result of an error or omission the party whose error or omission caused the incorrect royalty payments be liable for the additional royalty proceeds on such production and all resulting costs or damages incurred. It clarifies language related to compounding interest. It permits the operator to deem all accrued proceeds related to such interest to be abandoned and remit such proceeds as payment pursuant to the Unclaimed Property Act in the event title remains unmarketable for two years after an operator provides written notice of the unmarketable title. It exempts interest on proceeds that has not been paid prior to applicable time periods under certain conditions.

- **SB0743**, by Schulz, creates the Oil and Gas Produced Water Recycling and Reuse Act. It requires the Corporation Commission, no later than one year after the effective date of the bill, to identify or list as hazardous waste any drilling fluids, produced waters or other wastes associated with the exploration, development or production of crude oil or natural gas and to promulgate rules for the recycling and reuse of wastes identified and listed as hazardous waste.

The do pass motion for the CS for **SB0282** failed to receive a second and the bill failed to advance. Dahm said the new language established procedures and deadlines for the Corporation Commission to establish interim utility rates.

Under current law, he explained, utilities could move forward with the rates even if a final order has not been made by the commission. If the rates are inconsistent with the order, that means the utilities must pay refunds to customers, which has happened at least six times, Dahm said.

That creates a hardship for some Oklahomans, particularly elderly residents on fixed incomes, he added. The bill, he said, was requested by the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

The following bills were laid over Thursday:

- **SB0674**, by Sen. Larry Boggs, R-Wilburton, requires the State Hazard Mitigation Team, with the assistance and participation

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of appropriate additional state agencies, to develop recommendations for the state to safeguard against the threat of an electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack. It lists specific issues to be addressed. It requires the term to present its recommendations no later than Nov. 1, 2019, for implementation of a comprehensive plan to protect infrastructure and utility facilities of this state against the threat of an EMP attack to the Governor, the Senate President Pro Tempore and the House Speaker.

· **SB0768**, by Marlatt, adds the plan of development of any shale reservoir include the conditions under which the proposed unit will terminate.

[LESS]

## **Opponents of HB1482 rally at Capitol**

(eCap) Opponents to legislation modifying certain provisions of SQ780 rallied Thursday on the fourth floor rotunda of the State Capitol.

**HB1482**, by Rep. Scott Biggs, R-Chickasha and Sen. Gary Stanislawski, R-Tulsa, creates the Keep Oklahoma Children Safe from Illegal Drugs Act of 2017. It requires an individual purchasing a controlled dangerous substance in the presence of any child under 12 or near any public place in which children frequent to be a felony punishable by imprisonment or fine.

The bill received a do pass recommendation from the House Judiciary - Criminal Justice and Corrections Committee and waits to be heard on the House Floor. According to co-author Rep. Tim Downing, R-Prucell, the language honors "every word in the ballot question" exactly how voters voted for it.

Those who spoke Thursday argued otherwise, however.

Andrew Speno, state director for the Right on Crime Initiative, said the group assembled to show politicians undoing the will of people.

"Right on Crime will stand with you to defend the vote that you cast," Speno said.

"The wonderful thing about criminal justice reform is that it has no limits on the political spectrum," he added, introducing two former state representatives: Joe Dorman, a one-time Democratic gubernatorial candidate; and Kris Steele, a republican and former Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Dorman, chief executive officer for the Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy, argued that Oklahomans, by and large, knew what they were voting on in regards, regardless of claims to the contrary of those who seek to amend their provisions.

"Oklahomans wanted to see something different," Dorman said.

"They wanted to see a state that is not number one in the nation for incarceration of women. Oklahomans wanted to see a state that was not in the top three or four for overall incarceration where 85 percent of the people in incarceration are there for some type of drug or alcohol offense," he continued. "Oklahomans want to see better for the families and the children of this state."

He argued by passing, voters overwhelming saw treatment as an investment.

"You're going to hear arguments like, 'We're going to amend the bill,' or 'It's not what you're being told,'" he said. "That is simply not acceptable."

He pointed to statistics that show children with an incarcerated parent are seven times more likely to eventually be incarcerated themselves.

"That is why we're against **HB1482**," he added, arguing more time should be allotted for the two state questions to fully take effect.

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Steele, chair of Oklahomans for Criminal Justice Reform, argued that incarceration was not the answer to low-level offenses.

"We believe that addiction and mental illness are health issues and they ought to be treated as such," Steele said. "We believe that issues of addiction and mental illness are better addressed through treatment rather than punishment."

The results of the state questions, he added, confirm that a major portion of Oklahomans agree and voters should expect their Legislature to follow through on their end. He criticized concentrated efforts of certain legislators to "undo the will of the people."

"We cannot allow that to happen," he said.

Steele explained the stigmatizing effect a felony conviction can have on an individual. The latest research, he added, shows over 300 collateral consequences for such a conviction in Oklahoma, such as issues in gaining employment or housing.

"People who are sick and need help are not bad people...they are not criminals," he continued.

Felony convictions also lead to despair, Steele said, typically resulting in an individual falling deeper into the criminal justice system.

"The voters in November decided to keep hope alive," he proclaimed.

Goals Steele highlighted included adequate investments in appropriate treatment services in the community, reduction of the state's prison population and treating people like human beings.

"I want to make it clear that [HB1482](#) is an outrageous slap in the face to the voters of Oklahoma," he said. Steele proceeded to lead chants of "Respect our vote, pull this bill," before attendees dispersed to meet with legislators.

Both Dorman and Steele encouraged supporters who intended to speak with or attempt to speak with their legislators to remain civil.

[\[LESS\]](#)

## **House approves second trespassing measure in preparation for possible pipeline protests**

(eCap) A bill holding trespassers liable for damages to property passed the House floor Thursday morning.

[HB2128](#), by Rep. Mark McBride, R-Moore, and Sen. A J Griffin, R-Guthrie, clarifies language relating to torts. It allows a person who is arrested or convicted of trespass to be held liable for any damaged to personal or real property. The bill also allows an entity that compensates a person for trespassing to be held liable for damages.

The bill is another effort to curb protests like those that happened in North Dakota against the Dakota Access oil pipeline. A similar bill by Rep. Scott Biggs passed the 70 to 24 House floor on Tuesday.

[HB1123](#), as amended, by Biggs, R-Chickasha and Sen. Bryce Marlatt, R-Woodward, requires that an individual trespassing on property containing critical property be guilty of a misdemeanor. It requires an individual who willfully damages, destroys, vandalizes or tampers with critical infrastructure be guilty of a felony. It requires an organization found to be a conspirator to those committing such crimes pay a fine that is 10 times the amount of an individual. The bill defines related terms.

This measure, according to the author, is the civil version of Biggs' criminal bill. Also similar to that measure, members of the Democratic Caucus opposed [HB2128](#).

McBride said the bill was simply to avoid situations in which people were paid \$3,000 a month to protest, were given an arrest bonus and had attorneys waiting on them at the court house.

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"We just don't want that kind of activity in Oklahoma," said McBride.

Rep. David Perryman, D-Chickasha, said the bill was unnecessary as current Oklahoma law holds liable individuals who have caused damages to property.

Rep. Collin Walke took issue with the word "arrested" included in the bill's language.

"Just because you're arrested doesn't mean you're convicted of a crime. Someone can be arrested, found innocent and still the person that paid them to come here would be liable," he said.

McBride agreed.

"So therefore, this bill would, or could, punish individuals for completely lawful activity," said Walke.

McBride disagreed. With no further questions or debate, the bill passed 68 to 23.

The following bills passed Thursday:

- **HB1173**, by Rep. Dale Derby, R-Owasso, and Sen. J.J. Dossett, D-Sperry, allows a motorcycle to be equipped with auxiliary lighting, light-emitting diode pods and strips. The bill authorizes certain lighting to be used on motorcycles. The bill passed
- **HB1269**, by Rep. Elise Hall, R-Oklahoma City, and Sen. Gary Stanislawski, R-Tulsa, creates the Aviation and Aerospace Awareness License Plate designed in consultation with the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission. It requires fees to be deposited in the Aviation and Aerospace Awareness License Plate Revolving Fund. The bill passed 84 to 5.
- **HB1305**, by Rep. Casey Murdock, R-Felt, and Sen. Larry Boggs, R-Wilburton, authorizes the Oklahoma Department of Transportation to issue permits which authorize and regulate the harvesting of hay along the right-of-way of highways of the State Highway System. It requires an applicant for a permit to sign a release acknowledging that he or she will assume all risk and liability for hay quality and for any accidents and damages that may occur as a result of the work and that the State of Oklahoma assumes no liability for the hay quality or for work done by the permittee. It requires any person who stores the harvested hay along the right of way to remove the harvested hay within two days after harvesting. It gives the owner or the owner's assignee of land abutting the right-of-way priority to receive a permit for such land. The bill also requires ODOT to charge a permit fee in an amount calculated to defray the costs of administering the permit. It requires all fees received to be remitted to the state treasurer for credit to the State Highway Construction and Maintenance Fund and allows ODOT to promulgate rules and regulations to carry out this permit. The bill also authorizes the board of county commissioners to issue permits which authorize and regulate the harvesting of hay along the right-of-way of public roads of the county highway system within their respective counties. It directs the applicant for a permit to also sign a release acknowledging that he or she will assume all risk and liability for hay quality and for any accidents and damages that may occur as a result of the work and that the county and State of Oklahoma assume no liability for the hay quality or for work done by the permittee. It also requires any person who stores the harvested hay along the right-of-way for later removal to store the harvested hay at the outer edge of the right-of-way and to remove the harvested hay within two days after harvesting. It gives the owner or the owner's assignee of land abutting the right-of-way the priority to receive a permit for such land. It directs the county to charge a permit fee in an amount calculated to defray the costs of administering the permit and directs all fees received to be remitted to the county treasurer for credit to the county highway fund. The bill passed 71 to 23.
- **HB1464**, by Rep. Jon Echols, R-Oklahoma City and Sen. Nathan Dahm, R-Broken Arrow, modifies population requirement for counties from 500,000 to 150,000 in which the board of commissioners may construct, improve or maintain any streets. The bill passed 93 to 0. The amendment increased the number from 100, 000 to 150,000.

- **HB1576**, by Rep. Chad Caldwell, R-Enid, and Sen. Gary Stanislawski, R-Tulsa, requires the Oklahoma Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability to adopt rules requiring coursework or training in the use of digital and other instructional technologies by Nov.1, 2017. It requires the professional development procedure for teachers to include digital teaching and

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learning standards to enhance content delivery to students. The bill and its emergency clause passed 84 to 10.

The House reconvenes Monday at 1:30 p.m.

[\[LESS\]](#)

## **House Energy and Natural Resources passes all bills heard**

(eCap) The House Energy and Natural Resources Committee passed all five bills on Thursday's agenda, all of which were committee substitutes adding language to shell bills.

One bill, authored by Chair Weldon Watson aimed to update outdated statutory language to allow Oklahoma to adapt to new oil and gas technologies, like horizontal drilling.

CS to [HB1613](#), by Rep. Weldon Watson, R-Tulsa, creates the Oklahoma Energy Jobs Act of 2017. It replaces all mentions of the 2011 Shale Reservoir Development Act to the Horizontal Well Development Act. It deletes the definition of shale reservoir and defines targeted reservoir to mean one or more sources of supply encountered by the lateral portion of a horizontal well and being suited for development through a multiunit horizontal well or a unitization.

Rep. Scott Inman, D-Del City, said previously small producers have objected to legislation similar to this and asked whether the Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association (OIPA) has changed their position.

Watson said he is unsure whether they have issued a formal position on the bill, though he knows there are those who agree and others who don't.

"I'm very hopeful that we will be able to work something out but I am genuinely telling you....it is very difficult. I am hopeful that there will [an agreement] be but I will not make promises," said Watson.

He also noted that he will likely strike title on the floor to assure that an agreement can be reached. Watson said one of the issues currently being discussed is the terms of agreement for landowners and property rights.

Two other bills generated concern among Democratic committee members, including [HB1377](#) and [HB2151](#). Both measures create task forces.

CS to [HB1377](#), by Watson, creates the Twenty-first Century Corporation Commission Task Force to study regulation to determine if the Corporation Commission is properly structured to operate in the twenty first century. It establishes membership and requirements for information to be included in the assessment. It requires an organizational meeting to be held no later than December 1, 2017 and allows business to be conducted without a quorum. It prohibits the task force from being subject to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. It requires a final report to be developed by December 1, 2018 and requires termination of the task force December 2, 2018.

CS to [HB2151](#), by Rep. Charles McCall, R-Atoka, creates the Oklahoma Oil and Gas Regulation Modernization Task Force to study the regulation related to the identification, exploration and development of oil and natural gas resources and identify opportunities for modernizing regulation to enhance efficiencies related to identification, exploration and development. It establishes membership and requirements for information to be included in the assessment. It requires an organizational meeting to be held no later than December 1, 2017 and allows business to be conducted without a quorum. It prohibits the task force from being subject to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. It requires a final report to be developed by December 1, 2018 and requires termination of the task force December 2, 2018.

Inman noted that neither task force is made up of bipartisan members. He offered up an amendment requiring one member of the minority party to be appointed to the task force. The amendment was tabled by Watson.

Inman also offered an amendment removing the provision not subjecting the meetings to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. That

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amendment was also tabled.

Both bills received do pass recommendations from the committee.

The following bills also passed:

- CS to [HB2299](#), by Rep. Charles McCall, R-Atoka, requires the owner of a wind energy facility to submit notification of the intent to build a facility to any operator who is conducting oil and gas operations upon the surface estate to which the developer intends to construct the wind energy facility. It also requires notification to any operator of oil and gas unspaced units upon the surface estate to which the developer intends to construct. It requires a wind energy developer to notify lessees of oil and gas leases covering the mineral estate underlying any parts of the tracts of the land.
- CS to [HB2300](#), by Rep. Charles McCall, R-Atoka, prohibits a wind energy facility from being constructed near a private-use airport unless inspected by the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission. It allows the Commission to promulgate rules on how private-use airports must be inspected and under what conditions an airport will be approved.

[LESS]

### **Fallin signs REAL ID compliance measure, first bill of 56th Legislature**

(eCap) Gov. Mary Fallin signed the first bill of the 56h Legislature on Thursday, a measure bringing Oklahoma into compliance with the federal REAL ID Act.

"We have all heard of the importance for many years of passing a REAL ID law," Fallin said at signing ceremony for [HB1845](#). The bill, by House Speaker Charles McCall, R-Atoka and Senate President Pro Tempore Mike Schulz, R-Altus, establishes Real ID compliant driver licenses and eliminates the prohibition on the Real ID Act implementation and compliance.

Fallin, who called on lawmakers to pass a REAL ID compliance measure in her state of the state speech, said there was a public outcry for the law.

"I am so please we have moved ahead very quickly on this piece of legislation," she said.

The bill passed the House 78 to 18 Feb. 16. It was approved Tuesday 35 to 11 in the Senate.

Schulz and McCall said the Legislature's quick passage of the measure and Fallin's signature Thursday was an example of how the various sides could come together to solve a problem.

"I do not believe we've ever had a piece of legislation, certainly in recent history, delivered to the governor in four weeks," said Schulz prior to Thursday's bill signing.

Schulz said the bill's signing ensured Oklahoma citizens would be able to get on an airplane and access federal buildings.

McCall stressed the legislation gives Oklahomans a choice between obtaining a REAL ID compliance license or identification card or one that is non-compliant.

Congress passed the REAL ID Act in 2005 in response to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The perpetrators were alleged to have used fake identification to use the planes seized in the attacks. The federal law aimed at creating consistent minimum standards for identification documents, both physically and in the review process prior to issuance.

Oklahoma lawmakers passed a bill in 2007, however, prohibiting the state's compliance with the federal law. Proponents of that measure expressed concern that Oklahomans' privacy rights would be violated because information collected in the license application process would be shared with other states and the federal government. There also was concern that biometric data

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would be collected and shared.

Over the years, the state has received several extensions that permitted Oklahoma's driver licenses and identification cards to be used to access federal facilities and air transportation. The most recent extension, which was granted in October, was expected to be the state's last. That meant Oklahomans would have to use an approved alternative form of identification for those purposes, such as a passport.

The bill takes effect immediately. However, it will be some time before Oklahomans can obtain the compliant licenses and identification cards. The Department of Public Safety is expected to issue a request for proposals for a license and identification card issuing system that will have to be implemented.

During the Legislature's consideration of the measure, its proponents said the ID's would be centrally issued in order to secure the card stock, other supplies and equipment used in their production. Individuals will receive a temporary license or identification card from their tag agent and then their actual license or identification card will be mailed from the central processing site.

The bill increases the cost increases the costs of a driver's license or identification card by \$5. It also extends a \$5 fee that was added to the costs of license plates during the 2016 legislative session. The two fees are expected to generate between \$12 million and \$18 million annually for the implementation of and ongoing costs associated with the new identification system, Senate Appropriations Chair Kim David, R-Porter, said on the Senate floor

[LESS]

### **Bill permitting legislators to carry firearms in official capacity passes**

(eCap) A bill that would allow lawmakers to carry firearms anywhere while working in their official capacity received a do-pass recommendation from the Senate Public Safety Committee Thursday.

The committee substitute for [SB0006](#), by Sen. Josh Brecheen, R-Coalgate, with title stricken, permits certain state officials to carry a firearm throughout the state while in performance of official duties of their office and upon the successful completion of a handgun qualification course, including: the Governor; Lieutenant Governor; State Auditor and Inspector; Secretary of State; Attorney General; State Treasurer; Superintendent of Public Instruction; Commissioner of Labor; Corporation Commissioners; and U.S. House and U.S. Senate members from Oklahoma.

Brecheen noted his committee substitute featured a few key changes, now specifying the firearm in question may be brought anywhere when high-profile officials are working in their official capacity, such as a town hall.

Brecheen referenced the 2011 shooting of U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords, D-Arizona, along with 18 others during at constituent meeting as an example of the high risk situations elected officials face while working in their official capacity.

Sen. Greg McCourtney, R-Ada, requested if Brecheen could include a more specific definition of what constitutes official capacity.

"I know, at least in our job, it's hard to tell when we're doing official things or unofficial things," McCourtney said.

Brecheen said he would be happy to look into including such clarifications.

Sen. J.J. Dossett, D-Sperry, pointed out that the language specifies members of the U.S. Senate from Oklahoma are eligible under the provisions as written, adding that Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Massachusetts, is an Oklahoma native.

"Would that allow Elizabeth Warren to carry firearms in the U.S. Senate," he asked.

"I would be happy to make sure that Elizabeth Warren cannot carry (a firearm)," Brecheen joked, adding he would ensure to further specify qualifying credentials.

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The following measures also received do pass votes from the committee:

- SB0036, by Sen. Kimberly David, R-Porter, adds the definition of the term "handgun" to the Firearms Act.
- The committee substitute for [SB0132](#), by Dossett and Rep. Shane Stone, D-Oklahoma City, with title stricken, creates the Bobbi White Act of 2017. The bill requires that it be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle on any street or highway within Oklahoma, in a school or construction zone while using a cell phone or other handheld wireless communications device, unless said device is used with an accessory allowing for hands-free communication. The bill establishes a penalty of \$2,000 if the violation resulted in an accident resulting in injuries and \$5,000 if the violation resulted in an accident resulting in a fatality.
- The committee substitute for [SB0217](#), by Sen. A J Griffin, R-Guthrie, modifies the reporting procedures in relation to information required for sex offender registration. It requires a court to order the offender to report to the local law enforcement authority in the municipality or county in which the offender resides and to report to the Oklahoma Department of Corrections probation and parole office in the district in which the offender resides. It requires the court clerk to transmit listed information to the Sex and Violent Offenders Registration Unit of the Department of Corrections within three business days after the judgment and sentence. The bill requires any person subject to the provisions of the Sex Offenders Registration Act who resides with a minor child as the parent, stepparent or grandparent of the minor child, provided the minor child was not the victim of the offense for which the person is required to register, to provide to the Department of Human Services, within three days of intent to reside with a minor child, the name and date of birth of any and all minor children residing in the same household.
- [SB0249](#), by Sen. Anastasia Pittman, D-Oklahoma City, provides a definition for domestic sex trafficking of minors under state law. It defines it as a commercial sex act that is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age.
- The committee substitute for [SB0252](#), by Griffin, with title stricken, modifies the definition of "victim impact panel programs." The bill modifies requirements for attendance to said panels.
- [SB0650](#), by Sen. Wayne Shaw, R-Grove, modifies availability for persons authorized to file a motion for expungement by minimizing time limits for those convicted of a nonviolent felony offense from in the last 15 years to seven. It allows the petition to be made five years after the felony conviction has passed. It modifies the time period for those convicted of violent crimes from 20 years to 10 years after the conviction has passed.
- [SB0786](#), by Sen. Greg Treat, R-Oklahoma City and Rep. Terry O'Donnell, R-Catoosa, provides that every person who breaks and enters on any commercial or residential property or any room, booth, tent, railroad car, automobile, truck, trailer or vessel of another, in which any property is kept, with intent to steal any property therein or to commit any felony, is guilty of burglary in the third degree. The bill establishes a penalty for burglary in the third degree.
- [SB0793](#), by Treat, creates the Corrections and Criminal Justice Oversight Task Force and provides for membership. The bill tasks the committee with tracking implementation and assessing outcomes from the Oklahoma Justice Reform Task Force report of January 2017. It directs the task force to prepare and submit an annual report no later than the first day of the second full week of each regular session of the Legislature on outcomes and performance measures to the Legislature, Governor and Presiding Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals. It specifies the contents of the report. It requires the Oversight Task Force to use clerical and professional employees of the Department of Corrections. The bill encourages the task force to apply for and may expend grants, gifts or federal funds it receives from other sources to carry out its duties and responsibilities. The bill also directs DOC to collect specified information on certain crimes.
- [SB0826](#), by Pittman, with title stricken, creates a task force to research the consideration of creating a partnership between the Department of Corrections, the Oklahoma prison system and the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education in order to provide education opportunities for individuals incarcerated offenders once they are released from prison. It provides for task force membership. It provides for meetings, achieving a quorum and subjects the task force to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. It prohibits members from receiving compensation or travel reimbursement. It provides for staffing by the Senate. It requires a report by the task force be submitted to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of

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Representatives.

[\[LESS\]](#)

## **Bill creating Union Reform Act of 2017 receives a do pass**

(eCap) Four bills received do pass recommendations Thursday from the House General Government Oversight and Accountability Committee.

**HB1767**, by Rep. Todd Russ, R-Cordell, creates the Union Recertification Act of 2017.

"The bill allows school districts that have unions to vote to recertify those every five years. Currently, the law says they have to vote but once they are in they never vote again," Russ said.

"In reality they have the right to vote almost any time they want, don't they?" Rep. Roger Ford, R-Midwest City, asked.

Russ said he suspects they would have that right, but he doesn't know the details of the process.

"What exactly are you trying to accomplish here? I guess that's my question," Rep. Johnny Tadlock, D-Idabel, asked.

"The end game is transparency with a lot of the new teachers. I've got young teachers in my family with no clue of the union process," Russ said.

Rep. Cyndi Munson, D-Oklahoma City, asked for the fiscal impact of the bill.

"It should cost absolutely nothing," Russ said.

The bill received a do pass recommendation

Russ said he plans to strike the title of the bill as it moves to the House floor.

Without question or debate, the following bills received do pass motions:

· CS for **HB1448**, by Rep. Dustin Roberts, R-Durant, requires chiropractic license applicants for an original license to submit to a national criminal history record check and pay the costs associated with the check.

· **HB1703**, by Rep. Kevin Calvey, R-Oklahoma City, creates the Oklahoma Pregnancy Care Network Act. The piece of legislation is a request bill from the Oklahomans for Life. The mission of the request is to replicate a successful Texas' program that helps nonprofit agencies assisting women with alternatives to abortion, Calvey said.

· **HB1798**, by Rep. Sean Roberts, R-Hominy, creates the Feral Swine Hunting Reform Act of 2017.

[\[LESS\]](#)

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